

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A connecting piece, intended for connecting at least two elements, ~~whereby~~ a first element is connected to a first end of the connecting piece and a second element is connected to a second end of the connecting piece, the connecting piece comprising:

a body mainly of plastic;

a metal insert positioned at at least one end of the connecting piece, ~~a the~~ metal insert provided with a thread, ~~whereby the metal insert configured such that~~ at least one of the first and second element elements is connectable can be connected to the connecting piece ~~with~~ by a threaded connection; and

at least one gripping element disposed on ~~around~~ the outer surface of the connecting piece manipulatable for allowing either the connecting piece to rotate relative to at least one of the first and second elements or at least one of the first and second elements to rotate relative to the connecting piece ~~rotating the connecting piece or keeping it still upon~~ while making the a threaded connection, the gripping element ~~comprises~~ comprising:

at least two straight portions arranged such that two straight portions on opposite sides of the connecting piece are parallel, the straight portions forming gripping surfaces for a tool; and

a portion which is arranged smooth between adjacent straight portions;
whereby the gripping element is formed such that ~~the a tool round~~ surrounding the gripping element slips before the thread and/or the basic structure of the connecting piece gets damaged.

2. (Previously presented) A connecting piece according to claim 1, wherein the gripping element comprises six straight portions.

3. (Currently amended) A connecting piece according to claim 1, wherein the gripping element is formed of two or more ribs ~~in the direction of the periphery of~~ disposed circumferentially around the connecting piece.

4. (Currently amended) A connecting piece according to claim 3, wherein the outer surface of the metal insert is provided with ribs ~~in the direction of the periphery~~ extending outward from the metal insert, the ribs of the metal insert ~~and the ribs on the outer surface of the connecting piece being arranged at the same point~~ aligned with the ribs of the gripping element.

5. (Previously presented) A connecting piece according to claim 1, wherein the portion which is arranged smooth is a rounded portion.

6. (Currently amended) A connecting piece, intended for connecting at least two elements, ~~whereby~~ a first element is connected to a first end of the connecting piece and a second element is connected to a second end of the connecting piece, the connecting piece comprising:

a body mainly of thermoplast;

a thread positioned at at least one end of the connecting piece ~~a thread, whereby~~ the thread configured such that at least one of the first and second element elements is connectable can be connected to the connecting piece ~~with~~ by a threaded connection; and

at least one gripping element ~~disposed on~~ disposed around the outer surface of the connecting piece manipulatable for allowing either the connecting piece to rotate relative to at least one of the first and second elements or at least one of the first and second elements to rotate relative to the connecting piece ~~rotating the connecting piece or keeping it still upon~~ while making the a threaded connection, the gripping element comprising:

at least two straight portions arranged such that two straight portions on opposite sides of the connecting piece are parallel, the straight portions forming gripping surfaces for a tool; and

a portion which is arranged smooth between adjacent straight portions; whereby the gripping element is formed such that ~~the a tool round~~ surrounding the gripping element slips before the thread of the connecting piece gets damaged.

7. (Previously presented) A connecting piece according to claim 6, wherein the gripping element comprises six straight portions.

8. (Currently amended) A connecting piece according to claim 6, wherein the gripping element is formed of two or more ribs ~~in the direction of the periphery of~~ disposed circumferentially around the connecting piece.

9. (Previously presented) A connecting piece according to claim 6, wherein the portion which is arranged smooth is a rounded portion.

10. (Cancelled)